

Message Text

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42

ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 NEAE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03

H-01 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-10 SR-02 ORM-01 SCCT-01 USSS-00

SY-04 FBIE-00 EB-07 OMB-01 FAA-00 DOTE-00 NIC-01

ACDA-05 /098 W

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P R 221607Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2490

DIA PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

USINT BAGHDAD

USCINCEUR

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EO 11652: NA DECON 1/22/76

TAGS: PINS PLO LE XF

SUBJ: PRESSURES ON PLO TO DEAL MORE FIRMLY WITH PALESTINIAN
TERRORISM

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REF: BEIRUT 917 NOTAL

SUMMARY: INCREASED GOL UNHAPPINESS WITH "UNDISCIPLINED BEHAVIOR" BY FEDAYEEN IN LEBANON, COMBINED WITH GENERAL ARAB DISPLEASURE OVER LATEST TERRORIST INCIDENTS AT ORLY AIRPORT, APPEARS TO BE MAKING SOME IMPRESSION ON PLO LEADERSHIP. WHETHER THIS WILL EMBOLDEN THEM TO "CLEAN HOUSE" WITHIN FEDAYEEN MOVEMENT, HOWEVER, REMAINS TO BE SEEN. END SUMMARY.

1. 'ARAFAT AND PLO EX COMM ARE REPORTEDLY MEETING TODAY IN DAMASCUS FOR WHAT PLO (Wafa) NEWS AGENCY TERMS "IMPORTANT DISCUSSIONS". ACCORDING TO BEIRUT DAILY AL MUHARRIR, WHICH POSSESSES EXCELLENT FEDAYEEN CONNECTIONS, EX COMM WILL ADOPT "CONCLUSIVE AND FINAL MEASURES AGAINST (PALESTINIAN) ELEMENTS AND GROUPS WHICH UNDERTAKE IRRESPONSIBLE ACTIVITY THAT HARMS PALESTINIAN STRUGGLE AND LEBANESE-PALESTINIAN SOLIDARITY". MUHARRIR SAID EX COMM WILL FOCUS ON THE TWO RECENT INCIDENTS AT ORLY AIRPORT, AS WELL AS ON JAN 20 ROCKET ATTACK AGAINST LEBANESE ARMY BARRACKS AT TYRE. (AS NOTED REFTTEL, PLO HAS ALREADY ACCUSED "IRRESPONSIBLE ELEMENTS OF PFLP" OF BEING RESPONSIBLE FOR LATTER INCIDENT, AND IT HAS CONDEMNED ORLY INCIDENTS IN NO UNCERTAIN TERMS.

2. PLO LEADERSHIP HAS LATELY COME UNDER INCREASING PRESSURE FROM TOP-LEVEL GOL OFFICIALS TO REDUCE LEVEL OF FEDAYEEN ACTIVITY IN SOUTH LEBANON (PARA 2 BEIRUT 915 NOTAL). JAN 20 ROCKET ATTACK AT TYRE--COMBINED WITH SHORT-LIVED ABDUCTION JAN 19 OF AT LEAST FOUR LEBANESE SOLDIERS BY FEDAYEEN IN SAME AREA (USDAO BEIRUT 067 JAN 75) AND JAN 14 MURDER OF LEBANESE CIVILIAN BY TRIGGER-HAPPY FEDAYEEN NEAR BEIRUT REFUGEE CAMP--APPEARS TO HAVE AROUSED GOL SENSIBILITIES EVEN FURTHER. PLO AND LEBANESE ARMY REPRESENTATIVES MET JAN 21 TO DISCUSS PROBLEMS ARISING FROM THESE INCIDENTS, AND 'ARAFAT--WHO SAW PRIMIN SOLH EVENING JAN 20-- IS REPORTEDLY DUE TO MEETI WITH PRIMIN AGAIN TODAY, PRESUMABLY ON INSTRUCTIONS FROM PRES FRANGIE. LATTER AT JAN 21 CABINET MEETING CONDEMNED ORLY AND TYRE INCIDENTS AS "CHILDISH" AND "IRRESPONSIBLE", CALLED ON FEDAYEEN MOVEMENT TO DISPLAY "SELF-CRITICISM" IN CLEANING ITS OWN HOUSE, AND LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WELCOMED "FIRM DESIRE" ON PART OF PLO LEADERSHIP TO COOPERATE RESPONSIBLY WITH GOL AUTHORITIES (FBIS BE211717). PLO MILITARY SPOKESMAN ABU ZA'IM, FOR HIS PART, ISSUED STRONG PUBLIC STATEMENT FOLLOWING HIS JAN 21 MEETING WITH ARMY REPS IN WHICH HE SAID GOL HAD INSISTED ON NEED FOR FEDAYEEN TO DISPLAY GREATER DISCIPLINE AND VOWED THAT PLO LEADERSHIP WOULD COMPLY. PLO OFFICIALS IN LEBANON, SAID ABU ZA'IM, WOULD NOT PERMIT ANYONE TO HARM LEBANESE-

PALESTINIAN RELATIONS AND WOULD "STRIKE WITH IRON FIST ANYONE WHO TRIES TO USE PALESTINIAN RESISTANCE FOR ENDS WHICH DETRACT FROM ITS STRUGGLE TO ACHIEVE NATIONAL RIGHTS OF PALESTINIAN PEOPLE".

3. AT SAME TIME, WE NOTE THAT PFLP'S HABASH, IN INTERVIEW CARRIED HERE JAN 20 BY LEFTIST WEEKLY AL DUSTOUR, CONTINUED TO INVEIGH STRONGLY AGAINST ME SETTLEMENT EFFORT AND URGE ESCALATION OF "REJECTIONIST" PALESTINIAN EFFORTS TO SABOTAGE IT. ALTHOUGH HE DENIED ANY CONNECTION BETWEEN PFLP AND SO-CALLED ARAB COMMUNIST ORGANIZATION (RESPONSIBLE FOR RECENT SPATE OF BOMBING INCIDENTS IN DAMASCUS AND BEIRUT), HABASH EMPHASIZED NEED TO STRENGTHEN SOLIDARITY BETWEEN "REJECTIONIST" PALESTINIAN GROUPS AND ARAB "MASSES" THROUGHOUT ME. HE PRAISED GOVTS OF IRAQ, LIBYA, SOUTH YEMEN, ALGERIA AND SOMALIA FOR SUPPORTING THIS EFFORT, AND CLAIMED THAT PFOP--DESPITE CERTAIN DIFFERENCES RE TACTICS WITH USSR--RETAINS "CLOSE RELATIONS" AND "INTIMATE DIALOGUE" WITH MOSCOW. HABASH ALSO DESCRIBED RECENT DISTURBANCES IN EGYPT AS EVIDENCE THAT "OUR MASSES" WILL NEVER ACCEPT PEACEFUL ME SETTLEMENT AND THAT REVOLUTION WILL BE "INEVITABLE" IN ANY ARAB COUNTRY WHICH DOES.

4. COMMENT: IN LIGHT OF FOREGOING, AND IN FACE OF OPEN DISPLEASURE, EXHIBITED BY MANY ARAB GOVTS OVER RECENT EVENTS AT ORLY, WOULD APPEAR THAT 'ARAFAT AND CO. ARE FEELING INCREASING PRESSURE TO LEAD FEDAYEEN MOVEMENT ALONG PATH OF MORE RESPONSIBLE BEHAVIOR AND DEAL MORE FIRMLY WITH PALESTINIAN "REJECTIONIST" GROUPS AND TERRORIST ELEMENTS WITHIN THEIR MIDST. REMAINS TO BE SEEN, HOWEVER, TO WHAT EXTEND THEY WILL TRY--MUCH LESS SUCCEED--TO DO SO.
GODLEY

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